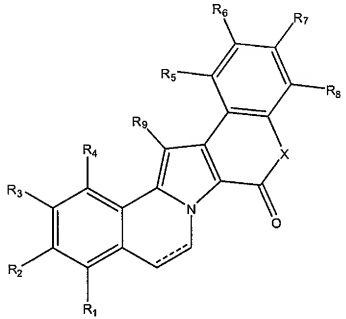
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 7 through page 8, line 11 (paragraph [0023] as published in US 2006/0173030) with the following:

The present invention is directed to compounds of the general formula III:



III

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO_2R', NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, NO_2, $PO(R')_2$, PO_2R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO_2H, CO_2R', $OPO(R')_2$, OPO_2R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic; wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, NO_2, NH_2, SH, CN, halogen, =O, C(=O)H, $C(=O)CH_3$, CO_2H,

C(=O)R', substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{18} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{18} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} aminoacid, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkylsulfonyl; wherein the pairs of groups R_1 and R_2, R_2 and R_3, R_3 and R_4, R_3 and R_9, R_4 and R_9, R_9 and R_5, R_9 and R_6, or R_6 and R_7, R_7 and R_5 may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system; and the dotted line represents ~~an single~~ a single or double bond; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, derivative, prodrug or stereoisomer thereof.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 13 through page 8, line 21 (paragraph [0024] as published in US 2006/0173030) with the following:

We exclude compounds that are known lamellarins, especially known lamellarins described in the literature acknowledged in the present introduction, and more especially lamellarins A-N and S-Z or lamellarins α or β, as well as lamellarin D, K, L, M or N triacetate, lamellarin G trimethyl ether and compounds in WO 9850365. In this respect, we explicitly incorporate by specific reference each of the prior art documents mentioned in the present introduction, particularly for any disclsoure of a known compound which needs to be excluded from the ~~repsent~~ present claims.

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, line 7 through page 19, line 13 (paragraph [0054] as published in US 2006/0173030) with the following:

Alkylidene groups may be branched or unbranched and preferably have from 1 to 12 ~~cabon~~ carbon atoms. One more preferred class of alkylidene groups has from 1 to about 8 carbon atoms, yet more preferably from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms, and most preferably 1, 2, 3 or 4 carbon atoms. Methylidene, ethylidene and propylidene including isopropylidene are particularly preferred alkylidene groups in the compounds of the present invention.